

SECRET

28 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Contact with Dr. Ernesto de ARAGON
15 and 16 September 1961

1. Following contact with Dr. MIRO Cardona by Mr. Robert E. Whodbee, DC/WH/h, and the undersigned at the Sheridan Belvedere Hotel (Room 624), Baltimore, about 1130 to about 1330 15 September 1961, the undersigned, on the evening of 15 September, spoke by telephone on the following points with MIRO's representative, Dr. Ernesto de ARAGON, who was with MIRO at the New Howard Hotel (Room 502), Baltimore. The undersigned based the content of his conversation with ARAGON on guidance provided by DC/WH/h:

- a. MIRO's Request for \$40,000 (U.S.) Monthly for Use Inside Cuba. We cannot give a favorable answer to this request at this time, even though we might agree with it in principle, because of the following factors, as we hope MIRO will realize:

(1) A considerable sum is involved, approval is necessary at various levels, and several different groups are involved in any decision.

(2) Appropriate channels for passing the funds will have to be worked out.

MIRO's reply on this point, as given through ARAGON, was that we should revise the amount of funds as we found necessary and arrange the appropriate channels for transmittal of funds.

- b. The Problem of Judges and Lawyers. Solution of the economic problem of the jurists and lawyers is also an involved problem to which no answer can be given immediately. An analysis of the status of the various judges and lawyers, a number of whom were not included in the original group, is being made and a report is expected during the week beginning 17 September. Upon receipt of this report, we shall be in a position to come to a decision.

Dr. MIRO's answer to this information, again delivered through ARAGON, was that he had been told by Mr. Goodwin, in a meeting on 13 September, that a solution had been arrived at concerning the judges and lawyers. ARAGON emphatically confirmed this statement, but when pressed for details by the undersigned could, not, or

SECRET

would not, give any details. MIRO stated that he would return to Miami on 18 September and virtually demand an answer to the problem of the judges and lawyers before he left.

- per instructions from Col. King,*
- c. Permanent Contact for MIRO. ARAGON was told that Col. Wendell Johnson, U.S.A., retired, an outstanding man of wide military and political experience, had been designated as permanent contact for MIRO and that Col. Johnson would also be in frequent contact with Mr. Goodwin. Col. Johnson was now in the process of moving to Miami and contact between him and MIRO would be established within ten days to two weeks.

MIRO expressed satisfaction at the designation of Col. Johnson as contact.

2. The undersigned reported the above to DC/MH/L following the conversation with ARAGON and, at about 1530 16 September, again spoke with ARAGON, who was still in the New Howard Hotel (Room 502), Baltimore, to advise him and MIRO of the following concerning the status of the judges and lawyers, as requested by DC/MH/L:

- a. We expect to work out details to provide Mr. MIRO or his designee, \$5,000 for the judges and lawyers for the month of August 1961 and \$5,000 for the month of September 1961, these amounts in addition to the monthly sums given via ALABAU.
- b. We had been proposing to reduce the number of judges and lawyers already on the list and it was ~~not~~ MIRO's responsibility to make the selection of the judges and lawyers who were to be paid from the funds to be placed at his disposal.
- c. The transition of control and payment of the judges and lawyers from ALABAU to MIRO would have to be worked out smoothly and without rancor by MIRO, despite the personal feelings of MIRO towards ALABAU, since it was necessary to avoid infighting and recrimination which would become open and attract public notice. If clashes led to publicity, support for the judges and lawyers would have to be withdrawn.
- d. The judges and lawyers group is expected to engage in positive activities and all action programs involving them will have to be submitted to the new contact for approval. If positive programs are not developed, the judges and lawyers cannot expect continuing support. Further, the judges and lawyers group is not a relief organization and some of its members who may need jobs should look to MIRO for positions or individually seek employment.

- 3.
- e. Dr. MIRO and his entourage should not talk indiscriminately and loosely about designation of the new contact, Col. Johnson, but should hold it closely, not attempting expediently to represent it to the exile groups as a great political triumph indicating a mandate for MIRO. The undersigned asked Dr. ARAGON whether he and MIRO had any questions on the foregoing and upon calling back to ARAGON was told that MIRO had only one question, whether he could expect \$5,000 for the judges and lawyers for August, and the same amount for September. The undersigned answered affirmatively, which satisfied ARAGON and MIRO and the conversation ended. The undersigned then advised DC/WH/4 of the upshot of the conversations of 16 September.

CK
H. S. CHAMBERLAIN
WH/PO/8